

Collaboration Report for Forest Plan Revision

Prescott National Forest



May, 2011

Cover photo: Upper Verde River above Clarkdale, AZ (June 2007)

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Executive Summary

The Prescott National Forest (Prescott NF) used both formal and informal collaboration methods to prepare for and carry out Forest Plan Revision. The Prescott NF approach was to augment traditional public participation by engaging citizens in planning, implementation, and ongoing stewardship of the forest. This meant inviting citizens to discuss and agree on their desires for the future and exploring ways to support and sustain stewardship in and around the Prescott NF.

Informal methods used to engage citizens and local institutions included human geographic mapping, identification of informal community networks, and outreach to informal community leaders. Detailed information on each Community Resource Unit was compiled and community landscape vision statements were developed or obtained from 11 communities. Discussions with citizen groups took place regarding draft versions of the Proposed Forest Plan. Five different Draft versions were posted on the Prescott NF Planning website for comment via email, phone, face to face interaction, or web site. An annotated version of Draft 4 was prepared to highlight changes resulting from the suggestions received; discussions related to potential alternatives for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement also took place.

The formal methods used included public meetings, web page feedback forms, and public comments on documents. Information gathered from members of the public and Prescott NF personnel contributed to an Economic and Social Sustainability Assessment. Information attained through both formal and informal citizen engagement was used to inform the development of the Ecological Sustainability Report, Analysis of the Management Situation, and Proposed Revised Forest Plan.

Indications that collaborative methods will continue to be used in the future include collaborative approaches used by citizens for potential Wild and Scenic River designation for the upper Verde River; and Stewardship Forum, Verde Front, and Agua Fria / Black Canyon City partner interest in participating in and co-convening the Prescott NF Recreation Strategy process. The emergence of the citizen-led Stewardship Forum and the development of the local nonprofit Community Forest Trust (CFT) will contribute to planning, implementation, and stewardship efforts on the Prescott NF.

Introduction

The Prescott NF decided it wanted to engage citizens in a meaningful way in the revision of the Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (Plan). This involved not just asking for citizen input but inviting them to share their desires for the future and inventing new ways to support and sustain stewardship. One definition of this type of stewardship is:

Community-based ecological stewardship – A citizen centered process through which people, government, and science interact to share knowledge, build consensus, and gain mutual understanding, ownership, and responsibility for attaining a productive and sustainable relationship with the land.

Gary McVicker, 2011

The goal was to work toward community-based ecological stewardship during Plan Revision citizen engagement. The Prescott NF found this collaborative approach to be very valuable in augmenting the formal public participation processes with information and opportunities that were discovered thru informal networks and leaders and by using human geography (Kent and Preister 1999; Confab 2007). The real value of this approach is broad community engagement, which can result in coalitions of

individuals and groups who have interest, energy, time, and resources and who want to be involved with stewardship of their National Forest.

This document describes the public participation and collaboration that took place as part of the revision of the 1987 Land and Resource Management Plan (existing Plan). It is divided into four parts:

1) Collaboration Done Prior to the Notice of Intent

This included work done before the publication of the Notice of Intent to revise the Prescott National Forest Land Management Plan. It was conducted in an informal manner to involve citizens in the existing Plan revision process, to develop relationships with groups and individuals across the national forest, and to identify citizen issues that would lead to development of Needs for Change in the existing Plan.

2) Collaborative Development after Publication of the Notice of Intent

This activity took place after the Notice of Intent to Revise the Prescott NF Plan was published. It included using an iterative approach to develop Plan components, with multiple versions discussed and modified.

3) Collaboration between the Draft and Final Environmental Impact Statements

This section includes a summary of the comments received about the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS), the analysis carried out on the DEIS comments received, and a description of how the Final revised Plan and the Final Draft Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) were modified to respond to these comments.

4) Ongoing Collaboration

The collaboration tools and techniques used for the Plan Revision were identified as an effective means of interacting with citizens, interest groups, and others. It was determined to carry on with collaboration as Plan implementation took place. This section contains a summary of the efforts that are expected to lead to continued collaboration with interested publics to implement forest management into the future.

Collaboration Done Prior to the Notice of Intent

As part of the Prescott NF's effort to revise its Plan, the planning staff needed to determine what issues were important to the people who live near or visit the Forest. This information would assist planners in identifying the parts of the 1987 Prescott National Forest land and Resource Management Plan (existing Plan) that were out of date or did not respond to current issues and needed to be changed. Several analyses and collaboration techniques were used to make that determination. A timeline of collaboration and other events related to Forest Plan Revision is shown in Appendix A-1.

Background Information

In 2005, a general Socio-Economic Assessment for the Prescott NF was completed by the University of Arizona School of Natural Resources; it documented baseline information related to the Forest Service and the situation within Arizona. In 2006, wide-scale assessments of public values, attitudes and beliefs toward National Forest System Lands (Adams-Russell Consulting, 2006) were completed and compiled into two reports. The first covered Arizona Tribal Peoples and the second dealt with others who interact with the Prescott National Forest. The report for Arizona Tribal Peoples includes comments from two

meetings, one held in northern Arizona and the other held in southern Arizona. Tribal people at the meeting shared their views on tribal involvement in Forest Planning, the consultation process, and Forest Resources and Multiple Use beliefs and values. The report for others who interact with the Prescott NF documents attitudes, beliefs and values (ABV) using focus group studies that are related to forest management and resources.

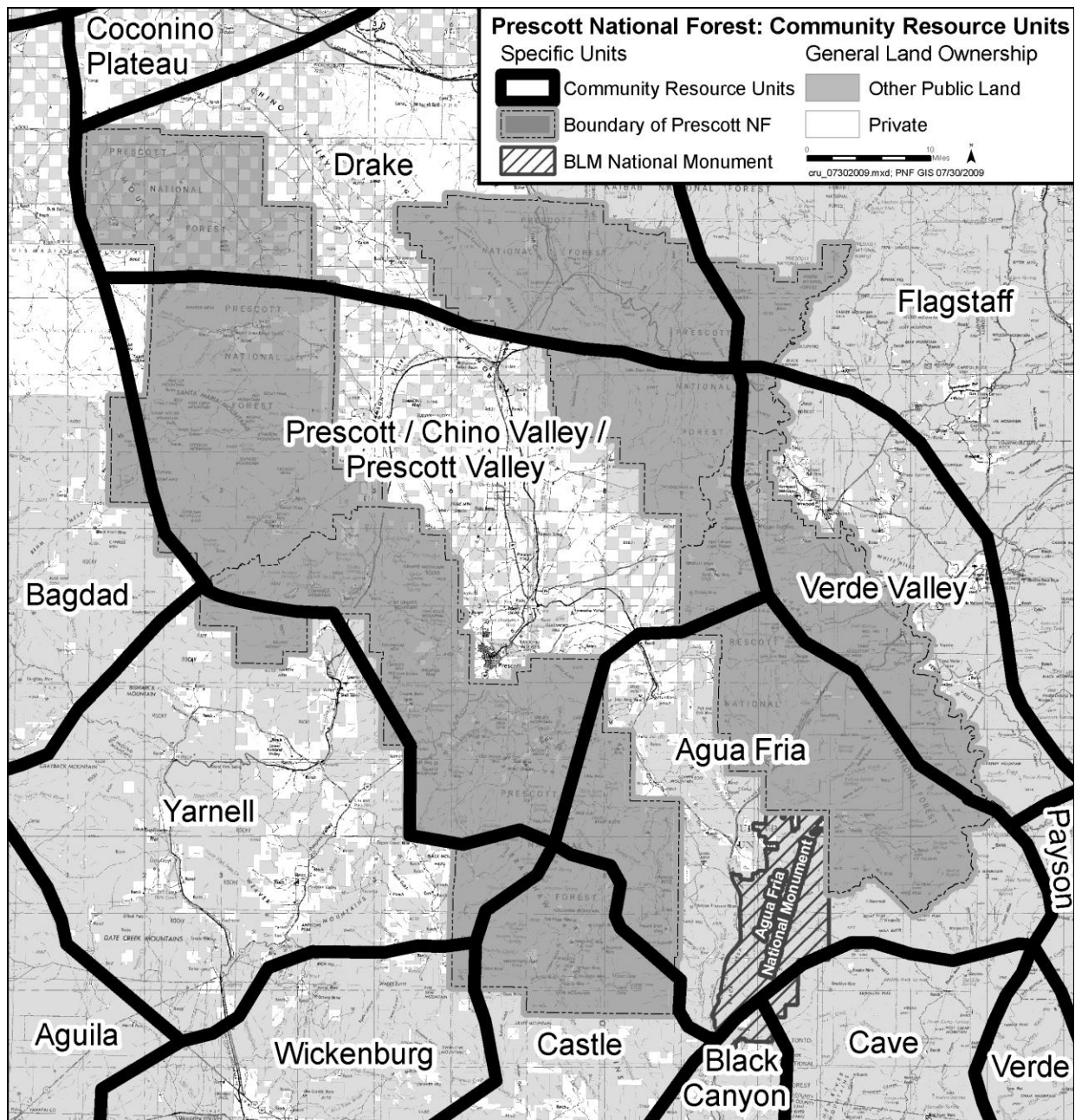
Community Description; Citizen Network and Issue Identification

In 2007, the Prescott NF contracted with Confab to develop a strategy for including public participation in the upcoming Forest Plan revision process. The resulting report provided the following:

- Knowledge of informal networks active in communities
- Citizen issues and issue holders/carriers
- Definition of the natural boundaries of communities throughout the planning area--Human Geographic Mapping (Figure 1)
- Realistic, practical opportunities to build capacity and relationships. These projects were called “resolve as you go” to build a constituency for the plan revision process and beyond
- Communication strategies for each human geographic area
- A strategy for integrating the informal community process with formal public meetings, and future comment and objection/resolution processes

Confab conducted face to face interviews with people over a 30 day period to describe their communities, the interpersonal networks in these communities, and the issues carried by people within their communities. Figure 1 displays mapped Community Resource Units identified by Confab. Community Resource Units (CRUs) are the geographic areas to which people feel attached, where interactions among people are most often face to face, and where people feel like part of a community. Geographic features and settlement patterns often strongly influence these boundaries. In rural areas, CRUs often include areas outside of town that are considered part of the community. Appendix A-7 further describes human geographic mapping and includes portions of community information reported by Confab with updates by Prescott NF staff.

Figure 1. Community Resource Units Relative to the Prescott NF (Adapted from Confab 2007)



The work initiated by Confab was continued by the Prescott NF staff and contributed to the overall knowledge of local issues. A few excerpts from over 200 documented informal contacts with individuals and groups are shown below.

Issue: Access to the Prescott NF--Motorcycle shop: *"Access to traditional trails is being lost to lot splits and housing developments"*

Issue: Recreation on the Prescott NF—Coffee shop: *"Only one trailhead; want more on the Prescott NF"*

Issue: Better management of Off-Highway Vehicles--Rancher conversation: *"Wilhoit uses [grazing allotment] as recreation area"; "Only interested in running quads, maybe hunting,"*
Person attending a watershed meeting: *Make OHV riders aware of trail "etiquette," especially around horseback riders.*

Grazing permittee: *Quads "tear up the place;" "won't stay on trails."*

Issue: Economic impacts to communities--Fire Chief: *"We depend on tourist traffic for economy"*

Issue: Vegetation management--Retired US Fish and Wildlife employee: *We need to address the weed situation now, not later.*

Issue: Climate Change—Nature Conservancy program director: *"For Forest systems, focus on increasing system resiliency and health."*

Community Visioning and Informal Engagement

The Prescott NF chose to use the Community Resource Units (CRUs; Figure 1) originally identified by Confab (2007) to learn about community values. Planners approached community network leaders to see if they were interested in developing community visions that would include issues related to the Prescott NF. Citizen networks and community leaders from most CRIs invited planners from the Prescott NF to a variety of community meetings. Citizens were invited to share their vision for the future for the land The Prescott NF offered to provide facilitation, if requested, and facilitation by professional third-party



Figure 2. Community visioning meeting, Prescott, AZ (Nov. 2007)

neutrals was obtained via Interagency Agreement with the U.S. Institute for Environmental Conflict Resolution. The facilitator, National Forest planners, and citizens helped to organize and coordinate identification of initial community vision components. Community volunteers wrote up the draft or final visions and the Prescott NF offered to post them on the planning website. Diverse groups of citizens shared their ideas, discussed differences, learned from one another and discovered many common interests. Numerous citizen issues surfaced during the dialogue. Eleven communities completed draft or final community vision statements (Appendix A-2) that can be viewed at <http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/prescott/plan-revision/vision.shtml>.

In April of 2008, citizens expressed a desire to hold a cross-community meeting (<http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/prescott/plan-revision/vision.shtml>) with representatives from all the CRUs. The purpose was to share their interests and visions regarding the Prescott NF and the surrounding landscape and to look for commonality among the issues and interests. The Upper Agua Fria Watershed Partnership hosted this meeting in Arcosanti, AZ, on April 15, 2008. Common citizen issues included: desire to maintain open space, landscape health, fuel reduction, improved management of off-highway vehicle use, litter, continued access, wildland-urban interface issues, and increased recreational opportunities. Numerous opportunities developed to share information with citizens and to listen for emerging issues. The issues identified during the community visioning process and through informal contacts helped to shape the priorities in the Need for Change section of the Forest Plan revision.



Figure 3. Cross-community visioning meeting, Arcosanti, AZ (April 2008)

On April 17, 2008, a community meeting titled *“Your Forest Vision and the Way Forward”* brought together approximately 30 interested people at the Highlands Center to share the draft community vision developed for Prescott, Prescott Valley, and Chino Valley,. The meeting was co-hosted by the Arizona Trail Riders, Arizona Off-Highway Vehicle Coalition, Arizona Wilderness Coalition, Back Country Horsemen, City of Prescott Parks and Recreation Department, Hyde Mountain Vista Group, Open Space Alliance of Central Yavapai County, Prescott Area Wildland/Urban Interface Commission, Prescott Cycling Club, Prescott National Forest, Prescott Open Trails Association, and Yavapai Cattle Growers Association. Two new groups, Highlands Center for Natural History and Yavapai County Trails Committee, asked to be included in future discussions. The draft vision was presented by representatives of co-hosting sponsors, and there was general agreement on the Final Vision. Attendees also discussed the next steps in the process of achieving the vision, and ideas for implementing the vision. These included ideas for increasing the capacity of the Forest Service and the proposal to form a “stewardship” group that could continue working with the Forest on planning issues. This eventually evolved into the Stewardship Forum, which represents a number of different interests in the Prescott area.

Community Bulletin Boards

The Prescott NF used known community bulletin boards (locations are listed in Appendix A-3) to post notices of the community visioning meetings, visioning feedback, and public meetings. The motto used for the process - *“If you invite us, we will come”* - resulted in numerous and often repeated invitations for the Forest Planning staff to attend community meetings. These meeting provided a venue where information was shared with the public and input was gathered for use in the development of the revised Forest Plan. The groups, agencies, and tribes contacted during this informal engagement are listed in Appendices A-4 through A-6.

Traditional Public Engagement

Pre-meetings with the Stewardship Forum and with the Verde Front group were held to gather feedback on the proposed public meeting agenda. On February 25 and 26, 2009, the Prescott NF hosted meetings in Camp Verde and Prescott regarding potential needs for change in the current Forest Plan. The meeting

started with a presentation to share background information and provide an overview of the planning process. Attendees then discussed possible needs for change in small group and during report-out to the whole meeting identified the highest priority needs for change. These were captured on flip charts and all attendees then used "dot-voting," placing a specified number of colored sticky dots next to the needs for change they most favored, to summarize meeting outcomes. This feedback was used to validate and refine the issues identified through the informal methods. The attendees at the formal meetings favored the following topics for Prescott NF forest plan revision focus: recreation, watershed health, reintroduction of fire as a disturbance, and open space.

The Prescott NF prepared several press releases about the progress of the Plan revision effort that included contact information. Two radio interviews regarding forest planning by Prescott NF planning staff occurred in August 2008 and March 2009, and periodic planning updates were sent out during 2008 to over 400 individuals and organizations. The Prescott NF webpage was used as a tool to disseminate information about the revision process, and to gather written feedback about the revised plan.



Figure 4. Public meeting in Prescott, AZ (Feb. 2009)

Other government agencies contacted during the Forest Plan Revision are listed in Appendix A-5. These contacts consisted of requests for information for the Ecological Sustainability Report, sharing the Economic and Social Sustainability Assessment, or updates on the Plan revision process.

Consultation with tribes consisted of formal letters to all groups with interest in the Prescott NF, phone calls, and visits by Forest staff and leadership to the Yavapai-Prescott Tribe and the Yavapai-Apache Nation. In November of 2008, the Forest Tribal Relations Liaison participated in discussions with, and provided briefing papers to, all six tribal groups that have connections to the Prescott NF (See Appendix A-6).

How Information Received was Used During Plan Revision

As a result of the extensive amount of interaction with citizens, information received from members of the public was included in the documents prepared during the early stages of the Plan revision process.

Economic and Social Sustainability Report (ESSA): Completed in October 2008, the ESSA (<http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/prescott/plan-revision/economic-social-sustainability-assessment.shtml>) combined information obtained from the informal and formal contacts, community visioning meetings, and the public meetings in Prescott and Camp Verde with agency personnel concerns and applicable portions of the 1987 Forest Management Plan. Information on key trends, community issues and visions was incorporated into Appendix A of the ESSA (<http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/prescott/plan-revision/economic-social-sustain-assessment/08-appendix-a.pdf>) and provided essential guidance on many of the topics carried forward into the Forest Plan components.

Ecological Sustainability Report (ESR): The ESR (<http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/prescott/plan-revision/ecological-sustainability.shtml>) was finalized in April of 2009 and its information was validated in several instance through informal methods. An example is the disagreement over the desired density of

trees in some piñon-juniper woodland systems; the feedback included comments that represented opposing views on the subject. To address this, when the ESR was written the piñon-juniper vegetation type was divided into three sub-types, and ultimately different desired conditions were developed for each in the revised Plan.

Examples of information gathered for the ESR using traditional methods include species of interest and species of concern data gathered with assistance from the Arizona Game and Fish Department and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. (At that time, the 2008 Planning Rule was in force and terminology such as species of concern was appropriate).

Analysis of the Management Situation (AMS) Initial list of needs for change, Integrated List of Possible Needs for Change, and Selected Needs for Change: Table 3 of the AMS listed ecological concerns, economic and social concerns, and public comments. Included in the public concerns were those related to:

- providing diverse and sustainable recreation experiences that meet the desire of communities,
- maximizing the value of Prescott NF open space,
- addressing access across non-Prescott NF lands for recreational and other purposes,
- describing desires for the wildland urban interface,
- responding to smoke emission concerns,
- addressing demand for utility and transportation corridors,
- maintaining sustainable contribution to ranching and forest products industries, and
- identifying desired characteristics of healthy watersheds.

The potential needs for change were combined based on interactions between ecological and social concerns, and eight possible needs for change were described (AMS p. 32-33).

The Prescott NF Leadership Team then identified a final list of Needs for Change, based on the capacity of the Forest. These are listed in the AMS p.37, and include the following:

- Citizen issues relating to fuel reduction, restoring fire adapted ecosystems, and smoke were incorporated into Need for Change 1: "Restore vegetation structure, composition, and desired characteristics of fire to selected ecosystems while responding to citizen concerns related to smoke emissions."
- Watershed health and water quality and quantity issues were incorporated into the second need for change: "Retain or improve watershed integrity to provide desired water quality, quantity and timing of delivery."
- The number one issue at public meetings in Prescott and the Verde Valley was providing sustainable recreation opportunities on the Prescott NF. That issue was combined into the following need for change: "Provide sustainable, diverse recreation experiences that consider population demographic characteristics reflect desires of local communities, avoid overcrowding and user conflicts and minimize resource damage."
- An off-shoot of watershed health concerns was the need to address declines in native fish in some watersheds. Since many of these declining species are federally threatened or endangered species, they were listed in a need for change statement on their own: "Provide desired habitat for native fish species."
- The issue of open space that came up in the Verde Valley and Black Canyon City community vision discussions was addressed as follows: "Enhance the value of open space provided by the Prescott National Forest by defining the visual character within areas near or viewed by those in local communities"

Collaborative Development after Publication of the Notice of Intent

The Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for revision of the Prescott NF Plan was published on January 19, 2010. It included a description of the Needs for Change for Plan revision and provided opportunity for comment. Fifty comments were received from individuals and groups, and an additional 2,601 form letter emails were generated from the web page of a national environmental group. The comments were read to determine whether any new needs for change should be added, or if the current needs should be modified. In August of 2010, as alternatives were being discussed, the comments received following publication of the NOI were combined with the comments received at public meetings. The combined comments were then analyzed to ensure that all concerns identified were addressed.

Development of the Proposed Revised Plan

The development of the Plan components took place over the course of a year, with initial work on Desired Conditions beginning in fall of 2009 and the initial development of Standards and Guidelines, Management Area direction, Objectives, and Monitoring strategies following in 2010.

Several draft versions of the proposed revised Plan were posted to the Prescott NF website for comment, and discussions from the resulting feedback took place after each posting. Draft 1 was posted on May 4, 2010 and included just the initial version of Desired Conditions and Standards and Guidelines. Planners were invited to meetings of the Upper Agua Fria Watershed Partnership, the Stewardship Forum, and the Verde Front to present the initial draft and to discuss possible adjustments. These three groups are comprised of people with a variety of interests in the Prescott NF, and the planning staff was fortunate that members of these groups volunteered to review Draft 1 and share their concerns.

Draft 2 of the proposed revised plan was posted on June 11, 2010 and included a modified set of Desired Conditions that addressed resiliency to climate change, among other changes. Draft 2 also provided the first version of Objectives to be posted on the web page and Standards and Guidelines that were slightly changed from Draft 1; but it did not include Management Area guidance or a Monitoring strategy. Many of the modifications included in this draft were related to improving clarity and ease of understanding.

On July 2, 2010, Draft 3, the first version of the revised plan that included all major components, was posted on-line. It contained modified Desired Conditions, modified Objectives (an Open Space Objective was added), Standards and Guidelines, and a new Monitoring strategy. Draft 3 was the version used for discussion at public meetings.

After three review meetings with members of the Prescott NF Leadership Team, Draft 4 was posted on the planning web page on February 4, 2011. An annotated version was also included that used comment boxes to point out adjustments that had been made to Draft 3 to produce the Draft 4 revised Plan..

Meetings with Citizens

Public meetings, sponsored by the Prescott NF were held in Prescott on August 3, and in Cottonwood on August 5, 2010 to discuss Draft 3 of the revised plan, to present the potential wilderness inventory and evaluation, and to gather information on future Draft Environmental Impact Statement alternatives. The meetings were organized in an open house format, and members of the inter-disciplinary team were available to answer questions from the public about the plan components. A comment form was provided, and attendees were encouraged to call or email about any additional questions or concerns.

During February and March of 2011, the planning core team was invited to the Recreation Strategy meetings to provide planning updates to the participant groups. The meetings were held at three locations- Prescott, AZ (2/20/2010), Cottonwood, AZ (2/28/2011) and at Arcosanti, near Cordes Lakes, AZ (3/01/2010). During these meetings, potential alternatives to the revised plan proposal and the process for, and results of, the potential wilderness inventory and evaluation were discussed. An email was sent to community networks when Draft 4 of the revised plan was posted on the web site.

Meetings with Agencies or Local Governments

During the plan revision process, meetings were held with representatives from other management agencies and various local governments. Approximately 200 interactions took place with groups or individuals from these institutions, and included face to face meetings, email notification of web postings, and formal memos and letters. For example, Arizona Game and Fish Department employees were kept updated at annual coordination meetings, through emails, and during meetings to review the first draft of the revised Plan. A listing of the dates of contact with government agency representatives is found in Appendix A-5.

How Information Received was Used During Plan Revision

As the Plan Revision process unfolded, community values and issues had an influence on the focus of Plan components. Excerpts from selected plan components that were developed as a result of interaction with citizens are listed below.

Forest Plan Components—Desired Conditions

Examples of Desired Condition statements that directly respond to needs for change and public issues are listed below:

Smoke

- Smoke or dust levels meet national ambient air quality standards. Conflicts between smoke aversion and restoration of ecosystems are minimized and smoke impacts to communities are minimized. Citizens are aware of timing, ignition sources, and benefits of fires and their resulting smoke.

Watershed Health

- Adequate quantity and timing of water flows are maintained in streams, seeps, springs, and wetlands to retain or enhance ecological functions.
- Water quality is sustained at a level that retains the biological, physical, and chemical integrity of the aquatic systems and benefits survival, growth, reproduction, and migration of native and desired non-native aquatic and riparian species. Soil and vegetation functions in upland and riparian settings are retained or enhanced. Resilient landscapes provide forage for browsing and grazing animals, timber production, and recreation opportunities, without negatively impacting soil and water productivity
- Riparian corridors are intact and functioning across the landscape.

Recreation

- A wide variety of recreation experiences and benefits exist across the Prescott NF landscape, emphasizing opportunities for those of current and future demographics as well as abilities, to discover and enjoy.

- Recreational facilities and constructed features (trails, trailheads, etc.) minimize resource impacts, especially those related to watershed integrity.

Open Space

- Open-space values including those related to naturally appearing landscapes, wildlife habitat, recreational opportunity, riparian/wetland character and community needs are retained.

Forest Plan Components--Management Area Desired Conditions

The Forest was divided into three geographic areas using Human geographic boundaries developed earlier (Confab 2007). Community vision statements related to recreation or open space were included for each. Geographic areas were subdivided into a total of seven Management Areas and the following are sample excerpts from Management Area desired conditions that respond to public concerns (Management Area shown in parenthesis):

- The non-motorized Black Canyon Trail stretches from BLM land ownership through the Prescott National Forest connecting Black Canyon City to Camp Verde (Agua Fria).
- Interactions between grazing permittees and recreationists are generally positive or benign including signing and other tools to communicate the need to respect gate closures for livestock and natural resources (Agua Fria).
- Recreation information is available to visitors to Crown King;...Areas are generally trash free...dispersed campsites near the community of Crown King...show minimal compaction and have vegetative cover...Recreational target shooting is not common in the Crown King area (Crown King).
- ...the upper Verde River retains its outstandingly remarkable values, while recreation facilities are found in several locations along the river (Upper Verde).
- Trails with various intended are located so that conflicts between different uses are minimized. Trails and trailheads located along the interface between the Forest Service and other ownership efficiently and effectively provide access to the Prescott National Forest, while avoiding resource damage. (Williamson Valley North)
- Facilities that support trail systems... are found in the vicinity of Camp Wood Road (County Road 68) as well as near the Prescott Basin Management Area (Williamson Valley South).
- The Black Mountain Range... provides a scenic backdrop for the entire valley (Verde Valley).

Collaboration between the Draft and Final Environmental Impact Statements

Description of Content Analysis; Summary of Comments Received

Adjustments Made as a Result of Comments Received

Ongoing Collaboration

The value of the collaborative approach employed during Forest Plan Revision can be seen in the following ongoing efforts that had their genesis in plan revision collaboration.

Community Forest Stewardship Forum

During the early citizen engagement portion of the forest plan revision process and at the “*Your Forest Vision and the Way Forward*” meeting, a small but diverse group of citizens and organizations expressed a desire to continue to move the community visions forward and begin to address some of the identified issues. With assistance from the independent US Institute of Environmental Conflict Resolution facilitator, a collaborative stewardship group (Stewardship Forum) self-organized out of these desires. The Stewardship Forum identified Trails, Litter and Youth Education as three focus areas shared in common with the Prescott NF. Sub-groups were formed around these issues and have begun work to collaborate efforts

Some of the benefits realized from the formation of the Stewardship Forum include:

- Increased attendance, diversity, and engagement, at community meetings due to Stewardship Forum advertising and hosting.
- Provide a venue for community feedback on management proposals and issues
- Fosters synergy among participants for issue resolution and action
- Encourages even wider and more inclusive citizen stewardship of the Forest
- Offers a potential focal point for community advocacy for the Forest
- Facilitates forest/community discussions



Figure 5. Stewardship Forum summer picnic, Mingus Mt. (May 2009)

The group’s involvement in the forest plan revision developed into a component of the Recreation Strategy effort, where strategies for managing recreation on the Prescott NF have been identified and prioritized based on community input and values.

Upper Verde River citizen proposal for designation as Wild and Scenic River

An alliance of several groups interested in the designation of the upper Verde River as a Wild and Scenic River approached the Prescott NF to share ideas and information and ensure that any proposal they made would work well from a land management standpoint. This was done well in advance of any written proposal.

Verde Front Group

A group comprised of organizations, local municipalities, agencies and citizens in the Verde Valley was interested in recreation projects and opportunities involving tracts of land newly acquired by the Prescott NF and Arizona State Parks. These acquisitions were viewed as the catalyst needed to move their community vision forward, with recreation as an initial focus. That effort (originally referred to as the Verde Front group) is being coordinated with the larger Recreation Strategy effort on the Prescott NF.

Community Forest Trust

During forest plan revision, participants from an existing non-profit organization (the Hyde Mountain Vista Group) offered to rename, expand their geographic scope and Board, and become a primary Forest-wide partner. The intent was to expand the capacity of the Forest to address on-the-ground issues such as better OHV management, trail maintenance and signing, trash and litter management, and youth education. The following is an excerpt from their website (<http://www.communityforesttrust.com/>):

The Community Forest Trust was formed in 2009 as the result of two years of dialogue involving a wide variety of stakeholders concerned with the well-being of the public lands in Yavapai County. With interactions with the Prescott NF, a community visioning effort culminated in a broad call for a new non-profit to be created that would build capacity for community members to contribute directly to the stewardship of these critical resources, both through participation in planning and in direct contributions through on-the-ground volunteer projects.

List of preparers

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With contributions from

Kristine Komar	Confab; Principal
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